

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring an area,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 periodically detecting an image of the area;
4 identifying and tracking a moving object in a succession of
5 the detected images;
6 automatically selecting a portion of a single image of the
7 succession of detected images for each identified moving object
8 using selection criteria;
9 saving the selected portion of the single image of the
10 succession of detected images for each identified object; and
11 discarding and not saving detected images of the succession of
12 the detected images other than said selected single image of each
13 identified object.

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Claim 2 (Canceled)

1 3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said
2 step of automatically selecting is carried out by using image
3 selection criteria which are intended to lead to the selection of
4 an image in which the face of a detected person is visible and
5 large.

1 4. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 3,
2 wherein said step of automatically selecting includes the steps of:
3 saving one of the detected images as a reference image;
4 carrying out said step of identifying by evaluating images
5 detected subsequent to the reference image in order to identify

6 therein each change region where the evaluated image differs from
7 the reference image;

8 determining a bounding box subset of the single image for a
9 given change region in each image of a set of images in which the
10 given change region appears; and

11 selecting the selected portion of the single image for the
12 given change region by discarding images from the set in which a
13 lowermost side of the bounding box is higher than in other images
14 of the set, and by selecting from the remaining images of the set
15 an image in which a size of the bounding box is larger than in the
16 other remaining images of the set.

1 5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said
2 step of automatically selecting is carried out using image
3 selection criteria which cause a current image to be selected over
4 a prior image if a lowermost point of a detected change region is
5 lower in the current image than in the prior image.

1 6. (Original) A method according to Claim 5, wherein said
2 step of automatically selecting is carried out using image
3 selection criteria which cause a current image to be selected over
4 a prior image if a detected change region has increased in size
5 relative to a prior image.

Claims 7 and 8 (Canceled)

1 9. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1,
2 wherein said selecting step is carried out in response to detection
3 of the absence of a previously detected object.

1 10. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1,
2 wherein said selecting step is carried out in response to detection
3 of a situation in which an object has remained within a predefined
4 region of the area for a specified time interval.

1 11. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1,
2 wherein said selecting step is carried out in response to a
3 determination that a previously moving object has become
4 stationary.

1 12. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1,
2 wherein said selecting step is carried out in response to a
3 determination a previously stationary object has started moving.

Claims 13 and 14 (Canceled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1,
2 wherein said saving step is carried out by determining a bounding
3 box subset of the single image with just large enough to completely
4 contain the a corresponding detected object and saving a portion of
5 a detected image ~~which includes the detected object~~ corresponding
6 to the bounding box.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 15,
2 including the step of saving one of the detected images as a
3 reference image at a first resolution, and wherein said step of
4 saving the selected portion of the single image is carried out by
5 saving the bounding box enclosing the selected portion of the
6 single image at a second resolution which is higher than the first
7 resolution.

1 17. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1,
2 including the step of saving one of the detected images as a
3 reference image having a first resolution, wherein said step of
4 saving the selected portion of the single image is carried out by
5 determining a bounding box subset of the single image with just
6 large enough to completely contain the a corresponding detected
7 object and saving at a second resolution a portion of a detected
8 image which includes the detected change region corresponding to
9 the bounding box enclosing the selected portion of the single
10 image, the second resolution being greater than the first
11 resolution, and including the step of displaying the reference
12 image at the first resolution, displaying the bounding box
13 enclosing the selected portion of the single image within the
14 reference image at the first resolution, and displaying the
15 bounding box enclosing the selected portion of the single image
16 separately from the reference image and at the second resolution.

Claims 18 to 21 (Canceled)

1 22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for monitoring an area,
2 comprising:
3 a detector which is operative to periodically detect an image
4 of the area; and
5 an image processing section which is responsive to the
6 detector, said image processing section being operative to:
7 identify and track a moving object in a succession of the
8 detected images;
9 automatically select a portion of a single image of the
10 succession of detected images for each identified object
11 utilizing selection criteria;

12 save the selected portion of the single image of the
13 succession of detected images for each identified object; and
14 discard and not save detected images other than said
15 selected single image of the succession of detected images for
16 each identified object.

Claims 23 and 24 (Canceled)

1 25. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring an area,
comprising the steps of:

3 periodically detecting an image of the area;
4 identifying and tracking a moving object in a succession of
5 the detected images;
6 automatically selecting a portion of single image of the
7 succession of detected images for each identified object using
8 selection criteria;

9 saving the selected portion of the single image of the
10 succession of detected images for each identified object; and
11 discarding and not saving detected images other than said
12 selected single image of the succession of detected images for each
13 identified object; and

14 automatically saving information a series of Cartesian
15 coordinate pairs which identifies the path of movement of the
16 object, said information being retained after the object is no
17 longer present in newly detected images.

Claim 26 (Canceled)

1 27. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 25,
2 including the steps of saving an identification of an event
3 associated with the detected object, saving one of the detected

4 images as a reference image, displaying the reference image,
5 displaying on the reference image the path of movement of the
6 object, and displaying on the reference image the identification of
7 the event at a location on the reference image corresponding to a
8 location of the event.

Claim 28 (Canceled)

1 29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for monitoring an area,
2 comprising:

3 a detector which is operative to periodically detect an image
4 of the area; and

5 an image processing section which is responsive to the
6 detector and which is operative to:

7 identify and track a moving object in a succession of the
8 detected images;

9 save the selected portion of the single image of the
10 succession of detected images for each identified object; and

11 discard and not save detected images other than said
12 selected single image of the succession of detected images for
13 each identified object;

14 automatically save information a series of Cartesian
15 coordinate pairs which identifies the path of movement of the
16 each moving object, and to retain the information after the
17 moving object ceases to be present in current detected images.

Claims 30 to 39 (Canceled)

1 40. (Previously Added) An apparatus according to Claim 22,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:

4 use image selection criteria which are intended to lead
5 to the selection of an image in which the face of a detected
6 person is visible and large.

1 41. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 40,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:
4 save one of the detected images as a reference image;
5 identify a moving object by evaluating images detected
6 subsequent to the reference image in order to identify therein
7 each change region where the evaluated image differs from the
8 reference image;

9 determine a bounding box subset of the selected image for
10 a given change region in each image of a set of images in
11 which the given change region appears; and

12 select the selected portion of the single image for the
13 given change region by discarding images from the set in which
14 a lowermost side of the bounding box is higher than in other
15 images of the set, and by selecting from the remaining images
16 of the set an image in which a size of the bounding box is
17 larger than in the other remaining images of the set.

1 42. (Previously Added) An apparatus according to Claim 22,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:
4 automatically select an image using image selection
5 criteria which cause a current image to be selected over a
6 prior image if a lowermost point of a detected change region
7 is lower in the current image than in the prior image.

1 43. (Previously Added) An apparatus according to Claim 42,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:
4 automatically select an image out using image selection
5 criteria which cause a current image to be selected over a
6 prior image if a detected change region has increased in size
7 relative to a prior image.

Claims 44 and 45 (Canceled)

1 46. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 22,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:
4 select an image in response to detection of the absence
5 of a previously detected object.

1 47. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 22,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:
4 select an image in response to detection of a situation
5 in which an object has remained within a predefined region of
6 the area for a specified time interval.

1 48. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 22,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:
4 select an image in response to a determination that a
5 previously moving object has become stationary.

1 49. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 22,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:
4 select an image in response to a determination a
5 previously stationary object has started moving.

Claims 50 and 51 (Canceled)

1 52. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 22,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:
4 save said selected portion of the single image by
5 determining a bounding box subset of the single image with
6 just large enough to completely contain the a corresponding
7 detected object and saving a portion of a detected image which
8 includes the detected object corresponding to the bounding
9 box.

1 53. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 52,
2 wherein:

3 said image processing section being further operative to:
4 save one of the detected images as a reference image at a
5 first resolution; and
6 save the selected portion of the single image by saving a
7 bounding box enclosing the selected portion of the single
8 image at a second resolution which is higher than the first
9 resolution.

1 54. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 22,
2 further comprising:

3 a display device; and

4 wherein said image processing section being connected to the
5 display device and being further operative to:

6 save one of the detected images as a reference image
7 having a first resolution;

8 save the selected portion of the single image by saving a
9 bounding box subset of the single image enclosing the a
10 corresponding detected object and saving at a second
11 resolution which is higher than the first resolution;

12 display via said display device said reference image at
13 the first resolution and said bounding box enclosing the
14 selected portion of the single image within said reference
15 image at said first resolution, and

16 display via said display device said bounding box
17 separately from said reference image and at said second
18 resolution.

Claim 55 (Canceled)

1 56. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 25,
2 further comprising:

3 a display device;

4 wherein said image processing section being connected to said
5 display device and being further operative to:

6 save an identification of an event associated with said
7 detected object;

8 save one of the detected images as a reference image; and
9 display via said display device said reference image,
10 said path of movement of the object within said reference
11 image, and said identification of said event on said reference
12 image at a location on the reference image corresponding to a
13 location of the event.